

Claims 12 – 19 and claim 54 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kailus (U.S. Patent 4,629,269). The allowance of claim 20 if rewritten in independent form is noted with appreciation

In the Office Action, it was stated with respect to claim 12 that:

Kailus, figure 1, discloses an electrical cable insert for removably electrically connecting a cable having multiple conductors (28) to a mating receptacle having a plurality projecting pins (20). The insert comprising: a plurality of receiving sockets (A, attachment) for receiving respective pins on the mating receptacle, a sealing gland (18) having a plurality of bores therethrough. Each of the cable conductors passing through a respective one of the bores in the sealing gland, means (25) for electrically connecting the cable conductors to respective pins, and means for compressing the sealing gland so as to seal the insert from the environment.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 12. Kailus does not disclose, teach or suggest any means for compressing a sealing gland so as to seal the insert from the environment. In Kailus, insert 18 is positioned within the connector in a position similar to the position of sealing gland 16 within applicant's invention. The system disclosed in Kailus is a system for sealing the conductor-receiving end of an electrical connector. The seal is effected by molding a membrane as an integral part of the elastomeric insert or grommet used at the rear of the connector, the membrane having a thickness sufficient to maintain the integrity of the seal over any vacant insert pockets but insufficient to prevent or impair normal and proper insertion of contact terminated conductor into the connector. No means are disclosed in Kailus, however, for compressing any of the inserts in the connector to seal the insert from the environment. In applicant's invention, however, driver 18 is utilized for compressing sealing gland 16, and the compressive force exerted by driver 18 on sealing gland 16 creates the seal to seal the insert from the environment. In Kailus, the insert 19 includes an integrally molded membrane 36 at end 32 of insert 19. The membrane is adapted to maintain a seal over a vacant pocket 30 if no conductor 28 is inserted in that pocket. However, the membrane is

adapted to permit a conductor to penetrate the membrane, if a conductor 28 is to be inserted into a particular pocket 30. The circumferential risers 34 which engage a conductor 28 as it is inserted into an otherwise vacant pocket 30 are said to provide an environmental seal and the membranes 36 which cover the vacant pockets provide a seal over the vacant pockets, but no means are disclosed for compressing a sealing gland to seal an insert from the environment.

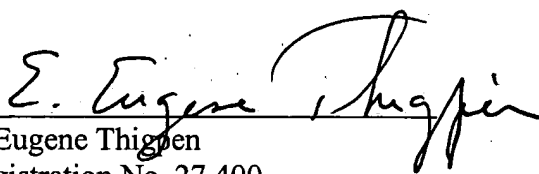
With reference to the other independent claim 54, no means are disclosed in Kailus for “compressing said gland to develop a sealing barrier around each of said first plurality of conductors and a sealing barrier around each said electrical connection location.” The similarity between the cited reference and applicant’s invention, as claimed in claim 54, is that the cited reference does include a housing, inserts having a plurality of bores extending therethrough, and a plurality of pin and sockets pairs within the housing. However, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in the cited reference of: compressing a sealing gland to develop a sealing barrier around the conductors or a sealing barrier around electrical connection locations. There is no reference or suggestion that element 19 is a “driver” and no reference or suggestion that element 19 is a means for compression.

Claims 13 – 20 are dependent from claim 12 and should be allowable therewith. Further, with reference to claim 13, the cited reference discloses no “driver secured to the housing and compressively engaging the sealing gland within the housing.” The cited reference actually discloses no means for compressing a sealing gland at all. Claims 14 through 19 include additions inventive features of applicant’s invention.

Applicant concurrently files a Petition for Extension of Time to extend the period for response for three months to January 31, 2003.

Applicant authorized the Commissioner to charge the \$930.00 charge for a three-month extension of time and any additional fees required to Deposit Account No. 50-2223, Order No. P30213US of Petroleum Geo-Services, Inc.

Respectfully submitted,


E. Eugene Thigpen
Registration No. 27,400
Petroleum Geo-Services, Inc.
16010 Barker's Point Lane, Suite 600
Houston, Texas 77079
Telephone: 281-368-8268
Facsimile: 281-589-1482

ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

Appendix A

12. (amended) An electric cable insert for removably electrically connecting a cable having multiple conductors to a mating receptacle having a plurality of projecting pins, the [inset] insert comprising:

a plurality of receiving sockets for receiving [respective] the projecting pins on the mating receptacle;

a sealing gland having a plurality of bores therethrough, each of the cable conductors passing through a respective one of the bores in the sealing gland;

means for electrically connecting the cable conductors to the respective receiving sockets; and

means for compressing the sealing gland so as to seal the insert from the environment.

15. (amended) The insert of claim 13, wherein the housing has an end with a plurality of orifices therethrough for receiving respective pins on the mating receptacle for insertion within the respective receiving sockets of the insert.

16. (amended) The insert of claim 13, wherein the receiving sockets include the projecting pins thereon for connection to the respective cable conductors.

17. (amended) The insert of claim 16, wherein the means for electrically connecting the cable conductors to the respective receiving sockets comprises crimp/socket contacts having a contact socket on one end for sliding onto a receiving socket pin and a deformable portion on the opposite end for crimping to an end of the respective cable conductor.